

Office of the Mayor
City & County of San Francisco



Gavin Newsom

September 17, 2007

California High-Speed Rail Authority, EIR/EIS Comments
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

To the California High-Speed Rail Authority:

I am writing to express my strong support for creating High Speed Rail (HSR) in California. This transportation system will provide a vital link for travel and commerce throughout our state. HSR could carry passengers between downtown San Francisco and Los Angeles in about two and a half hours, providing a safe, comfortable, and fast alternative to auto or air travel.

L003-1

San Francisco is committed to bringing HSR to the heart of our downtown, at the Transbay Terminal. This project, which will create the largest and most important transportation hub in the 9-county San Francisco Bay Area, is well under way and progressing rapidly. A route through Pacheco Pass to San Jose and up the Peninsula to San Francisco would connect two major Bay Area cities with our neighbors to the south, while still allowing a second route up the East Bay. The Peninsula Joint Powers Board of Directors (CalTrain) have reaffirmed the preferred Pacheco Pass alignment.

L003-2

San Franciscans are committed to supporting public transit, not just in our city, but statewide. In 2003, San Francisco voters passed Proposition K, which committed up to \$270 million in local tax funds to extend Caltrain to a rebuilt Transbay Terminal, which would ultimately be one terminus of HSR. In addition, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has passed, and I signed, a resolution supporting HSR in February 2006.

L003-3

I strongly support the current plan to put a statewide bond for HSR on the November 2008 ballot, and appreciate your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom
Mayor